

PURCHASE OF MINOR COINAGE BLANKS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*A reply to the House resolution of March 11, 1896, asking for information relating to the purchase of minor coinage blanks by the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia, together with accompanying papers.*

APRIL 23, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D. C., April 22, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following resolution adopted by the House of Representatives March 11, 1896:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby requested to furnish the House of Representatives, at the earliest date practicable, with a detailed statement of the price per pound and quantity of blanks for nickels and pennies supplied to and purchased by the superintendent of the mint in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, since April, eighteen hundred and ninety, and whether, since that time, section thirty-seven hundred and fifty-eight of the Revised Statutes has been complied with in every particular.

*Resolved*, That he is hereby authorized and directed to furnish a detailed comparison of the contract prices of said blanks with the market quotations for similar material during the entire period.

In reply, I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement, marked Exhibit A, showing the quantity and cost of copper-nickel 5 and bronze 1 cent blanks delivered each month from April 1, 1890, to March 11, 1896, on contracts made by the superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa., and approved by the Director of the Mint October 15, 1889, March 21, 1890, January 20, 1891, and February 4, 1893.

The quantity and cost of bronze 1-cent blanks delivered was 1,563,575.162 pounds, at 19.94 cents per pound, cost \$303,003.29; and the quantity of 5-cent nickel blanks, 678,177.881 pounds, of which 676,677.881 pounds, at 31.94 cents per pound, cost \$221,550.81; the remaining 1,500 pounds, at 40 cents per pound, \$600, a small balance received on account of contract of October 15, 1889.

## Section 3528, Revised Statutes, provides:

For the purchase of the metal for the minor coinage authorized by this title, a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars in lawful money of the United States shall be transferred by the Secretary of the Treasury to the credit of the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia, at which establishment only, until otherwise provided by law, such coinage shall be carried on. The superintendent, with the approval of the Director of the Mint as to price, terms, and quantity, shall purchase the metal required for such coinage by public advertisement and the lowest and best bid shall be accepted, the fineness of the metals to be determined on mint assay.

Under date of September 11, 1889, the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia was authorized to advertise in certain newspapers published in New York and Philadelphia, inviting proposals for furnishing 50,000 pounds, more or less, of 5-cent copper-nickel blanks and 100,000 pounds, more or less, of bronze 1-cent blanks.

The following proposals were received and opened in the presence of the bidders October 1, 1889, at 12 o'clock noon:

Bidder.	5-cent blanks (per pound).	1-cent blanks (per pound).
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Russell & Co.....	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rowland A. Robbins.....	59 $\frac{9}{10}$	34 $\frac{9}{10}$
Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Co.....	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Scovill Manufacturing Co.....	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Merchant & Co.....	40	26
B. H. Cramp & Co.....	38	25

Upon investigation as to the responsibility of the bidders, the superintendent of the mint reported that the lowest bidders, Messrs. B. H. Cramp & Co., frankly admitted that if the contract were awarded them they would be obliged to have the work done by other parties, and that the next lowest bidders were dealers in metals and had no facilities for doing the work, and recommended that all bids be declined and new proposals be invited by public advertisement. The superintendent was directed October 15, 1889, to accept the bid of Messrs. Merchant & Co., the next lowest bidders, provided they would commence delivery of the blanks within ten days, which they agreed to do, and gave bond in the sum of \$10,000 for the faithful performance of the contract.

Messrs. Merchant & Co. delivered on this contract 98,500 pounds of 5-cent nickel blanks, at 40 cents per pound, and 100,000 pounds of bronze 1-cent blanks, at 26 cents per pound.

The superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia was authorized, February 26, 1890, to advertise in certain newspapers published in New York and Philadelphia, for proposals to furnish 100,000 pounds, more or less, of 5-cent nickel blanks, and 200,000 pounds, more or less, of bronze 1-cent blanks.

The proposals received and opened in the presence of the bidders, at 12 o'clock noon, March 18, 1890, were as follows:

Bidder.	5-cent blanks (per pound).	1-cent blanks (per pound).
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Rowland A. Robbins.....	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
J. Friedenstern.....	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Scovill Manufacturing Co.....	31.94	19.94
John F. Lovejoy Co.....	45.73	25.73
Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Co.....	41.38	25.77
Merchant & Co.....	38	24 $\frac{1}{2}$



The bid of the Scovill Manufacturing Company was accepted, and under date of March 20, 1890, the Director of the Mint authorized a contract to be made with that company for 200,000 pounds of 5-cent nickel blanks, or so much thereof as the Government might require, at the price of 31.94 cents per pound; and 500,000 pounds of bronze 1-cent blanks, or so much thereof as the Government might require, at the price of 19.94 cents per pound.

A copy of the letter of the Director of the Mint and contract is transmitted herewith, marked Exhibit B.

Under date of January 15, 1891, the Director of the Mint authorized and directed the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia to make a new contract with the Scovill Manufacturing Company in terms similar to the contract dated March 21, 1890, for the reason that he considered the terms very favorable to the Government. A copy of the letter of the Director of the Mint and the contract made in accordance therewith are transmitted herewith (Exhibit C).

From April 1, 1890, to February 29, 1892, the Scovill Manufacturing Company delivered to the mint at Philadelphia, under the contracts of March 21, 1890, and January 20, 1891, the following minor coin blanks:

Character of blank.	Pounds.	Price per pound.	Cost.
		<i>Cents.</i>	
5-cent nickel blanks.....	338,247	31.94	\$108,036.92
1-cent bronze blanks.....	772,805	19.94	153,897.32

The superintendent of the mint, under date of April 25, 1892, was instructed to notify the Scovill Manufacturing Company that the contract of January 20, 1891, would be considered as having expired and no more blanks would be received on the same. No delivery of blanks was made between March 1 and August 1, 1892.

The stock of nickel blanks having been exhausted, the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia was authorized by the Director, under date of July 21, 1892, "to accept 10,000 pounds, or thereabouts, of nickel blanks from the company having the contract to furnish such blanks, at the contract price."

These blanks were delivered in August, 1892.

Under date of July 26, 1892, the superintendent of the mint was again authorized to advertise in certain newspapers, inviting proposals for furnishing 200,000 pounds, more or less, of 5-cent nickel blanks and 500,000 pounds, more or less, of 1-cent bronze blanks.

The following bids were received and opened in the presence of the bidders at 12.30 p. m., August 15, 1892:

Bidder.	5-cent blanks (per pound).	1-cent blanks (per pound).
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Co.....	39.25	28.20
Scovill Manufacturing Co.....	33.94	27.94
Merchant & Co.....	39½	28¾

All of which were rejected under instructions from the Director of the Mint, as the prices asked were regarded by him as too high when compared with the prices asked by the same bidders March 18, 1890, the price of the two principal metals in the blanks having declined,

nickel from 60 to 55 cents per pound, and copper from  $14\frac{1}{4}$  to  $11\frac{5}{8}$  cents per pound. The Scovill Manufacturing Company finally agreed to deliver blanks at the old rate of 31.94 cents per pound for 5-cent nickel blanks, and 19.94 cents per pound for bronze 1-cent blanks.

It appears from the statement transmitted, that up to September 1, 1892, the Scovill Manufacturing Company had delivered on their contract of March 21, 1890, and January 20, 1891 (each contract calling for the delivery of 200,000 pounds of nickel blanks and 500,000 pounds of 1-cent blanks), 350,247.881 pounds of nickel blanks and 772,805.162 pounds of 1-cent blanks, leaving about 50,000 pounds of the former and 227,000 of the latter due on the contracts.

From August, 1892, to January, 1893, inclusive, the Scovill Manufacturing Company delivered to the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia, 111,000 pounds of 5-cent nickel blanks, and 110,000 pounds of 1-cent blanks. From the records of the Department it appears that on January 24, 1893, the Director of the Mint decided to renew the contract with the Scovill Manufacturing Company, and a new contract calling for the delivery of 200,000 pounds, more or less, of 5-cent nickel blanks, and 500,000 pounds, more or less, of bronze 1-cent blanks, was executed and approved by the Director of the Mint, February 4, 1893. A copy of this contract is transmitted herewith, marked Exhibit D.

While it might have been to the advantage of the Government (which, however, is not certain) if the Director of the Mint had advertised for proposals before renewing the contract with the Scovill Manufacturing Company, there is no doubt that, with the experience had with the proposals for such blanks received in August, 1892, in authorizing and approving the contract of February 4, 1893, he acted, as he believed, for the best interests of the Government.

By the second section of the resolution I am directed "to furnish a detailed comparison of the contract price of said blanks with the market quotation for similar material during the entire period."

In reply I have the honor to respectfully submit the following exhibit of the price of the metals at the dates the contracts enumerated were made, of which the 5-cent nickel and bronze 1-cent blanks are composed:

Date of contract.	Metals.			
	Nickel.	Lake ingot copper.	Tin.	Zinc.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
October 15, 1889 .....	62	$11\frac{1}{8}$	20. 80	5. 10
March 21, 1890 .....	60	$14\frac{1}{4}$	20. 39	5. 87
January 20, 1891 .....	60	15	20	5. 55
February 4, 1893 .....	55	$12\frac{1}{8}$	20. 20	4. 33

At these prices the cost of the metal in a pound of 5-cent nickel blanks, 25 per cent nickel and 75 per cent copper, and in a pound of bronze 1-cent blanks, 95 per cent copper, 3 per cent tin, and 2 per cent zinc, would be as follows:

Date.	5-cent nickel blanks.	1-cent bronze blanks.
	Cents.	Cents.
October 15, 1889 .....	24. 125	11. 651
March 21, 1890 .....	25. 6875	14. 2666
January 20, 1891 .....	26. 25	14. 9670
February 4, 1893 .....	22. 84375	12. 20335



At the cost of the metals as above stated, based upon the market quotations for the same when the contracts were made, there would be a margin left to cover the expenses of manufacture, transportation, etc., including manufacturer's profits under the respective contracts, as follows:

Date.	Contract price (per pound).	Cost of metal (per pound).	Margin to cover expenses of manufacture (per pound).
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
5-cent nickel blanks:			
October 15, 1889.....	40	24. 125	15. 875
March 21, 1890.....	31. 94	25. 6875	6. 2525
January 20, 1891.....	31. 94	26. 25	5. 69
February 4, 1893.....	31. 94	22. 84375	9. 09625
1-cent bronze blanks:			
October 15, 1889.....	26	11. 6510	14. 349
March 21, 1890.....	19. 94	14. 2666	5. 6734
January 20, 1891.....	19. 94	14. 9670	4. 973
February 4, 1893.....	19. 94	12. 20535	7. 73465

The material approximating more closely in composition than any other the 5-cent nickel and 1-cent bronze blanks that the Department has any knowledge of, are the 20 per cent German silver circles for the nickel blanks and bronze circles for the bronze 1-cent blanks. The net prices for these circles, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches in diameter, as fixed by the Brass Manufacturers' Association, since the 15th of January, 1894, have been—

For 20 per cent German silver circles:	Cents.
From January 15, 1894, to June 11, 1894.....	47
From June 11, 1894, to March 11, 1896.....	36. 45
For bronze circles:	
From January 15, 1894, to September 24, 1894.....	18
From September 24, 1894, to May 22, 1895.....	18. 81
From May 22, 1895, to August 1, 1895.....	19. 80
From August 1, 1895, to January 1, 1896.....	21. 60
Since January 1, 1896.....	19. 60

The above are the net prices fixed for plain circles, and does not include annealing, cleaning, or milling.

In addition to the blanks purchased for the minor coinage, an exchange was made with the Scovill Manufacturing Company of the metal resulting from the melting of uncurrent minor coins, transferred to the mint for recoinage, for new blanks, pound for pound, the said company being allowed for reworking such metal at the rate of 8 cents per pound for the bronze blanks and 10 cents per pound for the 5-cent nickel blanks, which was paid from the appropriations for contingent expenses of the mint at Philadelphia.

A copy of the statement furnished by the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia showing the amount of old metal exchanged for new blanks from July 1, 1890, to December 31, 1895, is transmitted herewith, marked Exhibit E.

Respectfully, yours,

J. G. CARLISLE,  
*Secretary.*

HON. THOMAS B. REED,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PURCHASE OF MINOR COINAGE BLANKS.

## EXHIBIT A.

Statement, by months, showing amount and cost of 1-cent bronze and nickel 5-cent blanks purchased from April 1, 1890, to March 11, 1896, and from whom purchased (mint of the United States at Philadelphia).

Date.	Bronze 1-cent blanks.		Nickel 5-cent blanks.		Total.		From whom purchased.
	Avoirdupois pounds.	Cost.	Avoirdupois pounds.	Cost.	Avoirdupois pounds.	Cost.	
1890.							
Apr			1,500	\$600.00	1,500	\$600.00	Merchant & Co.
May	36,000	\$7,178.40	500	159.70	36,500	7,338.10	Scovill Manufacturing Co.
June	29,551.162	5,892.50	27,034.881	8,634.94	56,586.043	14,527.44	Do.
July	5,000	997.00	10,000	3,194.00	15,000	4,191.00	Do.
Aug	10,000	1,994.00	7,500	2,395.50	17,500	4,389.50	Do.
Sept	37,000	7,377.80	15,500	4,950.70	52,500	12,328.50	Do.
Oct	45,000	8,973.00	20,500	6,547.70	65,500	15,520.70	Do.
Nov	114,000	22,731.60	9,000	2,874.60	123,000	25,606.20	Do.
Dec	54,500	10,867.30	47,000	15,011.80	101,500	25,879.10	Do.
1891.							
Jan	23,500	4,685.90	9,000	2,874.60	32,500	7,560.50	Do.
Feb	20,500	4,087.70	17,000	5,429.80	37,500	9,517.50	Do.
Mar	2,500	498.50			2,500	498.50	Do.
Apr							No purchases.
May	5,000	997.00	7,500	2,395.50	12,500	3,392.50	Scovill Manufacturing Co.
June	22,500	4,486.50			22,500	4,486.50	Do.
July	43,000	8,574.20	42,000	13,414.80	85,000	21,989.00	Do.
Aug	21,000	4,187.40	21,000	6,707.40	42,000	10,894.80	Do.
Sept	15,000	2,991.00			15,000	2,991.00	Do.
Oct	9,000	1,794.60	6,500	2,076.10	15,500	3,870.70	Do.
Nov	78,500	15,652.90	20,924	6,683.13	99,424	22,336.03	Do.
Dec	137,500	27,417.50	26,500	8,464.10	164,000	35,881.60	Do.
1892.							
Jan	7,000	1,395.80	25,500	8,144.70	32,500	9,540.50	Do.
Feb	56,754	11,316.75	25,789	8,237.00	82,543	19,553.75	Do.
Mar							No purchases.
Apr							Do.
May							Do.
June							Do.
July							Do.
Aug			10,000	3,194.00	10,000	3,194.00	Scovill Manufacturing Co.
Sept			3,000	958.20	3,000	958.20	Do.
Oct	10,000	1,994.00	22,000	7,026.80	32,000	9,020.80	Do.
Nov	19,000	3,788.60	25,000	7,985.00	44,000	11,773.60	Do.
Dec	51,500	10,269.10	37,000	11,817.80	88,500	22,086.90	Do.
1893.							
Jan	29,500	5,882.30	14,000	4,471.60	43,500	10,353.90	Do.
Feb	40,000	7,976.00	14,500	4,631.30	54,500	12,607.30	Do.
Mar	32,000	6,380.80			32,000	6,380.80	Do.
Apr	25,000	4,985.00			25,000	4,985.00	Do.
May	20,000	3,988.00	12,500	3,992.50	32,500	7,980.50	Do.
June	37,000	7,377.80	23,500	7,505.90	60,500	14,883.70	Do.
July							No purchases.
Aug	20,400	4,067.76	4,000	1,277.60	24,400	5,345.36	Scovill Manufacturing Co.
Sept	25,500	5,084.70	18,000	5,749.20	43,500	10,833.90	Do.
Oct	40,000	7,976.00	27,000	8,623.80	67,000	16,599.80	Do.
Nov	38,000	7,577.20	20,500	6,547.70	58,500	14,124.90	Do.
Dec	28,870	5,756.68	20,930	6,685.04	49,800	12,441.72	Do.
1894.							
Jan							No purchases.
Feb							Do.
Mar							Do.
Apr							Do.
May							Do.
June							Do.
July							Do.
Aug							Do.
Sept							Do.
Oct	18,500	3,688.90	5,000	1,597.00	23,500	5,285.90	Scovill Manufacturing Co.
Nov	23,500	4,685.90	3,000	958.20	26,500	5,644.10	Do.
Dec	49,000	9,770.60	17,000	5,429.80	66,000	15,200.40	Do.
1895.							
Jan	42,486	8,471.71	28,500	9,102.90	70,986	17,574.61	Do.
Feb	1,500	299.10	2,000	638.80	3,500	937.90	Do.
Mar	20,014	3,990.79			20,014	3,990.79	Do.
Apr							No purchases.
May							Do.
June							Do.
July							Do.



Statement, by months, showing amount and cost of 1-cent bronze and nickel 5-cent blanks purchased from April 1, 1890, to March 11, 1896, etc.—Continued.

Date.	Bronze 1-cent blanks.		Nickel 5-cent blanks.		Total.		From whom purchased.
	Avoirdupois pounds.	Cost.	Avoirdupois pounds.	Cost.	Avoirdupois pounds.	Cost.	
1895.							
Aug .....	73,500	\$14,655.90			73,500	\$14,655.90	Scovill Manufacturing Co.
Sept .....	1,500	299.10			1,500	299.10	Do.
Oct .....	8,000	1,595.20			8,000	1,595.20	Do.
Nov .....	63,500	12,661.90			63,500	12,661.90	Do.
Dec .....	28,500	5,682.90	20,000	\$6,388.00	48,500	12,070.90	Do.
1896.							
Jan .....	14,000	2,791.60	10,500	2,353.70	24,500	6,145.30	Do.
Feb .....	23,000	4,586.20			23,000	4,586.20	Do.
Mar .....	7,000	1,395.80			7,000	1,395.80	Do.
Total ..	1,563,575.162	311,776.89	678,177.881	216,730.91	2,241,753.043	528,507.80	

The price paid per pound for the bronze 1-cent blanks was 19.94 cents, and for the nickel 5-cent blanks 31.94 cents, with the exception of nickel blanks purchased from Merchant & Co. in April, 1890, which were at the rate of 40 cents per pound.

HERMAN KRETZ.

EXHIBIT B.

Proposals received and contract made for minor coin blanks, March 20, 1890.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,  
Superintendent's Office, March 18, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to state that upon opening the proposals for nickel and bronze blanks received up to 12 m. this day they were found to be as scheduled below, to wit:

No. of bid.	Name and address of bidder.	5-cent blanks.		1-cent blanks.	
		Quantity.	Price per pound.	Quantity.	Price per pound.
		Pounds.	Cents.	Pounds.	Cents.
1	Rowland & Robbins, 141 Chambers street, New York .....	100,000	48.25	200,000	28.25
2	J. Friedenstien, 83 Maiden Lane, New York ..	100,000	45.75	200,000	27.75
3	The Scovill Manufacturing Co., Waterbury, Conn.....	100,000	31.94	200,000	19.94
4	John F. Lovejoy Co., 102 Chambers street, New York .....	100,000	45.73	200,000	25.73
5	Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Co., Waterbury, Conn .....	100,000	41.38	200,000	25.77
6	Merchant & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.....	100,000	38	200,000	24.50

I inclose the bids, numbered in order of their receipt, and as opened and read in the presence of the operative officers and bidders. The bid of the Scovill Manufacturing Company being the lowest and the company fully responsible, the contract will be awarded to that party, with your approval.

Very respectfully,

O. C. BOSBYSELL, Superintendent.

Hon. E. O. LEECH,  
Director of the Mint, Washington, D. C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF THE MINT,  
Washington, D. C., March 20, 1890.

SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, forwarding the proposals for nickel and bronze blanks, your recommendation that the bid of the Scovill Manufacturing Company, at the rate of 31.94 cents per pound for

5-cent blanks be accepted, is approved, and you are authorized to enter into a contract with the Scovill Manufacturing Company to furnish 200,000 pounds of 5-cent nickel blanks, or so much thereof as the Government may require, at the price of 31.94 cents per pound, and 500,000 pounds of 1-cent blanks, or so much thereof as the Government may require, at the price of 19.94 cents per pound.

The proposals are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

E. O. LEECH, *Director.*

SUPERINTENDENT UNITED STATES MINT,  
*Philadelphia, Pa*

Agreement made this twenty-first day of March, A. D. 1890, between the United States of America, acting herein by Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, of the one part, and The Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, of the other part.

Whereas the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company, in answer to a public advertisement, submitted a proposal to said superintendent, under date of March 15th, 1890, to supply said mint with one hundred thousand (100,000) pounds, more or less, of five-cent copper-nickel blanks, at the rate of thirty-one ninety-four one-hundredths (31.94) cents per pound, and further proposed to accept further orders from said superintendent for said blanks up to the total amount of two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds at the same price, viz, 31.94 cents per pound, as by reference to said advertisement and proposal will fully appear, which proposal has been accepted by said superintendent and approved by the Director of the Mint.

Now, therefore, this agreement witnesseth that the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company are to furnish and deliver the required blanks at the mint aforesaid, in such quantities as may be required from time to time by the superintendent of the mint, to the amount of not less than one hundred thousand (100,000) pounds, and not more than two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, being for all requirements of the mint for blanks of this denomination until the said 200,000 lbs. shall have been delivered, the blanks to be of proper size and form, and be composed of three-fourths copper and one-fourth nickel, and no piece shall deviate more than three (3) grains from the standard weight, viz, seventy-seven and sixteen-hundredths (77.16) grains, prescribed by law; the blanks to be properly annealed, cleaned, and milled, and to be of the proper ductility; the stated fineness and proportion of the metals to be determined on the mint assay, and all blanks not suitable for coinage to be rejected.

Payments to be made weekly, if required, for all blanks delivered and accepted under this contract, at the rate of 31.94 cents per pound.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties to this contract the day and year first above written.

O. C. BOSBYSHELL, [SEAL.]  
*Superintendent of the Mint.*

SCOVILL MANFG. CO., [SEAL.]  
By C. P. GOSS, *Treasurer.*

Witnesses present:

F. M. NICHOLS.  
O. B. JONES.  
F. J. GROSS.  
T. R. HYDE, Jr.

Approved:

E. O. LEECH, *Director of the Mint.*

Agreement made this twenty-first day of March, A. D., 1890, between the United States of America, acting herein by Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, of the one part, and The Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, of the other part.

Whereas the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company, in answer to a public advertisement, submitted a proposal to said superintendent, under date of March 15th, 1890, to supply said mint with two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, more or less of one-cent blanks, at the rate of nineteen and ninety-four hundredths (19.94) cents per pound, and also proposed to accept further orders for said blanks at the same rate per pound to the total amount of five hundred thousand (500,000) pounds if called for, as by reference to said advertisement and proposal will appear; which proposal has been accepted by said superintendent, and approved by the Director of the Mint.



Now, therefore, this agreement witnesseth that the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company are to furnish and deliver the above-specified blanks at the mint aforesaid, in such quantities as may be required from time to time by the superintendent of the mint, to the amount of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, and not more than five hundred thousand (500,000) pounds, being for all the requirements of the mint for blanks of this denomination until the said 500,000 pounds shall have been delivered, the blanks to be of proper size and form, and to be composed of ninety-five per centum of copper, three per centum of tin, and two per centum of zinc, and shall not deviate more than two (2) grains from the standard weight prescribed by law, viz: Forty-eight (48) grains; the blanks to be of proper and satisfactory ductility; the fineness and proportion of the metals composing them to be determined on the mint assay; and all blanks not suitable for coinage to be rejected.

Payments at the rate of nineteen and ninety-four hundredths (19.94) cents per pound to be made weekly, if required, for all blanks delivered and accepted under this contract.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties to this contract, the day and year first above written.

O. C. BOSBYSHELL, [SEAL.]  
Supt. of the Mint.

SCOVILL MANFG. CO., [SEAL.]  
By C. P. GOSS, Treasurer.

Witnesses:

F. M. NICHOLS,  
O. B. JONES,  
F. J. GROSS,  
T. R. HYDE, Jr.

Approved:

E. O. LEECH, *Director of the Mint.*

---

#### EXHIBIT C.

*Contract made for minor-coin blanks, January 20, 1891—Letter of Director of the Mint authorizing same.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF THE MINT,  
Washington, D. C., January 15, 1891.

SIR: After a careful consideration of the advertisement and contract with the Scovill Manufacturing Company, for supplying nickel and bronze blanks, I have come to the conclusion that it would be lawful to enter into a new contract with this company, under the old advertisement; and, as I consider the contract a favorable one for the Government, you are authorized and directed to prepare and enter into an agreement with the Scovill Manufacturing Company, in terms exactly similar to the ones herewith returned, for furnishing and supplying nickel and bronze blanks of the same quantity as is named in the present agreement, referring to the old advertisement in the agreement, and after the contracts are duly executed, to forward them to Washington for my approval.

Very respectfully,

E. O. LEECH, *Director.*

The SUPERINTENDENT UNITED STATES MINT,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

---

Agreement made this twentieth day of January, A. D. 1891, between the United States of America, acting herein by Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, of the one part, and The Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, of the other part.

Whereas the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company, in answer to a public advertisement, submitted a proposal to said superintendent, under date of March 15th, 1890, to supply said mint with one hundred thousand (100,000) pounds, more or less, of five-cent copper-nickel blanks, at the rate of thirty-one ninety-four hundredths (31.94) cents per pound, and further proposed to accept further orders from said superintendent for said blanks up to the total amount of two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds at the same price, viz, 31.94 cents per pound, as by reference to said advertisement and proposal will fully appear; which proposal was accepted by said superintendent and approved by the Director of the Mint.

Now, therefore, this agreement witnesseth that the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company have renewed their proposal of March 15th, 1890, and above alluded



to, to furnish the said mint with five-cent copper nickel blanks, in quantity and at the rate per pound as above recited, which renewed proposal has been accepted by said superintendent and approved by the Director of the Mint, and the contract made pursuant to the proposal of the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company March 15th, 1890, is hereby extended, and the said Scovill Manufacturing Company are (after completing the delivery of the 200,000 lbs. called for in the contract of March 21, 1890) to furnish and deliver the required blanks at the mint aforesaid, in such quantities as may be required from time to time by the superintendent of the mint, to the amount of not less than one hundred thousand (100,000) pounds and not more than two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, being for all requirements of the mint for blanks of this denomination, until the said 200,000 lbs. shall have been delivered, the blanks to be of proper size and form and be composed of three-fourths copper and one-fourth nickel, and no piece shall deviate more than three (3) grains from the standard weight, viz, seventy-seven and sixteen-hundredths (77.16) grains, prescribed by law, the blanks to be properly annealed, cleaned, and milled, and to be of the proper ductility; the stated fineness and proportion of the metals to be determined on the mint assay; and all blanks not suitable for coinage to be rejected.

Payments to be made weekly if required for all blanks delivered and accepted under this contract at the rate of 31.94 cents per pound.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties to this contract, the day and year first above written.

O. C. BOSBYSHELL,  
*Supt. of the Mint.*  
 SCOVILL MANFG. CO., [SEAL.]  
 C. P. GOSS, *Treas.*

Witness present:

O. B. JONES,  
 JNO. T. PORTS.

(The words "after completing the delivery of the 200,000 lbs. called for in the contract of March 21, 1890," interlined in the 9th line, 2nd page, before signing.)

---

Agreement made this twentieth day of January, A. D. 1891, between the United States of America, acting herein by Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, of the one part, and The Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, of the other part.

Whereas the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company in answer to a public advertisement, submitted a proposal to said superintendent under date of March 15th, 1890, to supply said mint with two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, more or less, of one-cent blanks, at the rate of nineteen and ninety-four hundredths (19.94) cents per pound, and also proposed to accept further orders for said blanks at the same rate per pound to the total amount of five hundred thousand (500,000) pounds, if called for, as by reference to said advertisement and proposal will fully appear, which proposal was accepted by said superintendent and approved by the Director of the Mint.

Now, therefore, this agreement witnesseth that the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company have renewed their proposal of March 15th, 1890, and above alluded to, to furnish the said mint with one-cent blanks, in quantity and at the rate per pound as above recited, which renewed proposal has been accepted by said superintendent and approved by the Director of the Mint, and the contract made pursuant to the proposal of the said Scovill Manufacturing Company, March 15, 1890, is hereby extended, and the said Scovill Manufacturing Company are (after completing the delivery of the 500,000 lbs. called for in the contract of March 21, 1890) to furnish and deliver the above-specified blanks at the mint aforesaid, in such quantities as may be required from time to time by the superintendent of the mint, to the amount of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, and not more than five hundred thousand (500,000) pounds, being for all the requirements of the mint for blanks of this denomination until the said 500,000 lbs. shall have been delivered, the blanks to be of proper size and form, and to be composed of ninety-five per centum of copper, three per centum of tin, and two per centum of zinc, and shall not deviate more than two (2) grains from the standard weight prescribed by law, viz, forty-eight (48) grains; the blanks to be properly annealed, cleaned, and milled, and to be of proper and satisfactory ductility; the fineness and proportion of the metals composing them to be determined on the mint assay; and all blanks not suitable for coinage to be rejected.

Payments at the rate of nineteen and ninety-four hundredths (19.94) cents per pound, to be made weekly, if required, for all blanks delivered and accepted under this contract.



Witness the hands and seals of the parties to this contract the day and year first above written.

O. C. BOSBYSHELL,  
*Supt. of the Mint.*

SCOVILL MANFG. CO., [SEAL.]  
C. P. GOSS, *Treasurer.*

Witnesses present:

O. B. JONES.  
JNO. T. POTTS.

(The words "after completing the delivery of the 500,000 lbs. called for in the contract of March 21, 1890," and the words "properly annealed, cleaned, and milled, and to be," in the 24th line of 2nd page, interlined before signing.)

Know all men by these presents that we, The Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, acting herein by C. P. Goss, treasurer thereof, as principal, and Joseph Wharton, of the city of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, as surety, are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America, in the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) lawful money of the United States, to be paid to the United States of America, to which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed with our own seals, and dated this twenty-first day of March, anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and ninety.

Whereas the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company, by two contracts with the United States aforesaid, acting therein by Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, bearing even date herewith, have stipulated and agreed to supply the said mint with five-cent copper-nickel blanks to the amount of not less than one hundred thousand (100,000) pounds, nor more than two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, at the rate of thirty-one and ninety-four one-hundredths cents per pound (31.94), and also bronze one-cent blanks to the amount of not less than two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds nor more than five hundred thousand (500,000) pounds, at the rate of nineteen and ninety-four one-hundredths cents per pound (19.94), upon the terms and conditions specified in said contracts, as by reference thereto will fully appear.

Now, therefore, the condition of the obligation is such that if the said The Scovill Manufacturing Company shall and do faithfully execute said contracts and fulfill all the requirements thereof as therein stated, then this obligation to be void and of none effect, otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue.

SCOVILL MANFG. CO., [SEAL.]  
By C. P. GOSS, *Treasr.*  
JOSEPH WHARTON.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us—

F. J. GROSS.  
T. R. HYDE, Jr.  
M. H. COBB.

Approved:

E. O. LEECH, *Director.*

And now, to wit, January 20th, 1891, the contract with The Scovill Manufacturing Company, for the faithful performance of which the foregoing obligation was made and entered into by the said company, acting herein by C. P. Goss, treasurer thereof, as principal and Joseph Wharton, of the city of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, as surety, having been extended in all its stipulations by and between Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, acting for the United States of America, of the first part, and C. P. Goss, treasurer of The Scovill Manufacturing Company, acting for said company, of the second part: Be it known that the terms and life of the foregoing recited obligation are hereby extended to cover the contract above stated to have been extended this 20th day of January, 1891, to remain in full force and virtue until the stipulations of the extended contract aforesaid shall have been fully performed.

SCOVILL MFG. CO., [SEAL.]  
By C. P. GOSS, *Treas.*  
JOSEPH WHARTON.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us—

O. B. JONES.  
JNO. T. POTTS.

Approved:

E. O. LEECH, *Director.*

## PURCHASE OF MINOR COINAGE BLANKS.

## EXHIBIT E.

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,  
*Superintendent's Office, January 23, 1893.*

SIR: Complying with your verbal request during your recent visit at this mint, I have the honor to submit copies of a contract for minor-coin blanks with Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, and trust it may prove satisfactory. I will thank you to indicate any points wherein it may seem to require amendment.

Very respectfully,

O. C. BOSBYSHELL, *Superintendent.*

Hon. E. O. LEECH,  
*Director of the Mint, Washington. D. C.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF THE MINT,  
*Washington, D. C., January 24, 1893.*

SIR: I return herewith the form of contract which you drew up for the continuance of the present arrangement with the Scovill Manufacturing Company for the delivery of five-cent and one-cent blanks.

You will notice that I have corrected one copy as it will be approved by this Bureau and canceled the other.

You are authorized to execute a contract with the Scovill Manufacturing Company in accordance with the corrected form herewith sent.

The form, as corrected, fully covers the case and there can be no objection to it upon the part of the firm or upon the part of anybody.

Very respectfully,

E. O. LEECH, *Director.*

The SUPERINTENDENT UNITED STATES MINT,  
*Philadelphia, P*

THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,  
*Superintendent's Office, February 6, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith contracts with Scovill Manufacturing Company for nickel and bronze coin blanks, duly signed and attested. I also send the amended copy returned to this office by you, according to your request.

Very respectfully,

O. C. BOSBYSHELL, *Superintendent.*

Hon. EDWARD O. LEECH,  
*Director of the Mint, Washington, D. C.*

Whereas under contracts made upon due advertisement for proposals and dated March 21st, 1890, the United States of America purchased from the Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, certain copper-nickel coin blanks and certain bronze coin blanks for the use of the mint of the United States in the manufacture of five-cent coins and one-cent coins; which contracts, having been found advantageous to the United States, have been extended from time to time; and

Whereas the said contracting parties are now willing to contract with each other for further purchase and delivery of such blanks for the use of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia:

Now, therefore, this agreement, made this fourth day of February, 1893, between the United States of America, acting herein by Oliver C. Bosbyshell, superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia, of the one part, and the Scovill Manufacturing Company, of Waterbury, Connecticut, of the other part, witnesseth:

That the United States will purchase from the said Scovill Manufacturing Company for the use of its mint, and the said Scovill Manufacturing Company will sell to the United States two hundred thousand (200,000) pounds, more or less, of copper-nickel coin blanks at the rate of thirty-one ninety-four one-hundredths (31.94) cents per pound, as may be needed for coinage purposes; the blanks to be of proper size and form, and to be composed of three-fourths copper and one-fourth nickel; and no piece shall deviate more than three (3) grains from the standard weight, viz, seventy-seven and sixteen hundredths (77.16) grains troy, as prescribed by law; the blanks to be properly annealed, milled, and cleaned, and to be of the proper ductility; the stated fineness and proportions of the metals to be determined on the mint assay, and all blanks not suitable for coinage to be rejected.



And this agreement further witnesseth, that the United States will purchase from the said Scovill Manufacturing Company for the use of the mint, and the Scovill Manufacturing Company will sell to the United States five hundred thousand (500,000) pounds, more or less, of bronze coin blanks as may be needed for coinage purposes, at the rate of nineteen ninety-four hundredths (19.94) cents per pound, the blanks to be of the proper size and form, and to be composed of ninety-five per centum of copper, three per centum of tin, and two per centum of zinc, and shall not deviate more than two (2) grains from the standard weight as prescribed by law, viz, forty-eight (48) grains, Troy; the blanks to be of the proper ductility, to be annealed, milled, cleaned, and the fineness and proportions of the metals composing them to be determined on the mint assay; all blanks not suitable for coinage to be rejected.

Payments at the rates aforementioned, respectively, for such coin blanks, to be made weekly if required, and the deliveries of the same to be made from time to time, as required by the superintendent of the mint, free from freight charges at the mint at Philadelphia and in such quantities as the said superintendent may determine.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties to this contract this fourth day of February, 1893.

O. S. BOSBYSHELL,  
*Superintendent Mint of the United States, Philadelphia.*  
SCOVILL MFG. CO.,  
C. P. GOSS, *Treasurer.*

Witnesses :

W. H. COBB.  
O. M. BOSBYSHELL.  
EDWARD O. GOSS.

Approved :

E. O. LEECH, *Director.*

*Face value and coinage of the metal resulting from minor coins transferred for recoinage and turned over to the Scovill Manufacturing Company, for reworking such metal, from July 1, 1890, to December 31, 1895 (mint of the United States, at Philadelphia).*

Amount on hand July 1, 1890 .....	\$28, 012. 46
Uncurrent coin transferred from United States Treasury, viz:	
Old copper cents .....	\$1, 896. 09
Nickel 1-cent coin .....	21, 477. 56
Bronze 1-cent coin .....	19, 724. 10
Bronze 2-cent coin .....	17, 988. 76
Nickel 3-cent coin .....	38, 067. 33
Nickel 5-cent coin .....	208, 410. 00
	307, 563. 84
Cost of tin and zinc added to old copper-cent metal to convert it into bronze 1-cent alloy for recoinage into bronze 1-cent coin .....	54. 88
Cost of pure nickel added to nickel 1-cent metal to convert it into nickel 5-cent alloy for recoinage into nickel 5-cent coin .....	976. 28
Cost of metal of the same alloy added to nickel 3-cent metal for recoinage into nickel 5-cent coin .....	683. 13
Seigniorage (gain by recoinage) .....	107, 691. 91
Total .....	444, 982. 50
Coinage executed, nominal value, viz:	
Bronze 1-cent coin, 32,401 pounds .....	\$47, 306. 61
Nickel 5-cent coin, 86,347 pounds .....	382, 516. 40
	429, 823. 01
Wastage (loss by recoinage) .....	15, 159. 49
Total .....	444, 982. 50

HERMAN KRETZ, *Superintendent.*

